

**PROPOSED SUPPRESSION FOR NOMENCLATORIAL PURPOSES
UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A PAMPHLET BY R. B.
HORNIMAN ENTITLED "PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF
SOME NEW BIRDS" AND BEARING THE DATE "JANUARY
1940"**

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(Commission's Reference : Z.N.(S.) 782)

The purpose of the present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its Plenary Powers to suppress for nomenclatorial purposes a four-page pamphlet by R. B. Horniman entitled *Preliminary Descriptions of some new Birds* and bearing the date "January 1940". The facts of this case are set out below. This matter is one of some urgency from my point of view since I am at present engaged in the preparation of a Checklist of the birds of the Palaearctic Region in which it would be necessary to take account of certain of the new names in this pamphlet if it were to be accepted as being available for nomenclatorial purposes.

2. This pamphlet is excessively rare. So far as I have been able to trace, there is only one copy of it in the United States and this copy is in private hands, while in Europe the only copy known to me is one in the library of the British Museum (Natural History). Further, this pamphlet has not been noticed in the *Zoological Record* or in other literature-recording serials known to me. In these circumstances it appears to Dr. James P. Chapin with whom I have discussed this matter and to myself that there is a strong presumption that this pamphlet was never duly "published" within the meaning of Article 25 of the *Règles* and therefore that the new names in it possess no status in zoological nomenclature. Unfortunately, this seems to be a matter on which it is improbable that definite evidence will be forthcoming, for it has proved impossible to communicate with Mr. Horniman, the sole source from which authoritative evidence might have been obtained and it is not known even whether he is still alive. Some of the birds described in this pamphlet were stated by Horniman to be in the collection of Mr. C. M. N. White, but White also has been unable to throw any light on the question whether this pamphlet was duly "published".

3. Names and descriptions of fourteen allegedly new birds are given in this pamphlet. The provenance of these birds is as follows: (1) Belgian Congo (various localities), four names; (2) Mwinilunga, Northern Rhodesia, four names; (3) Kenya-Abyssinian border, one name; (4) Scotland, five names

(North Uist, Outer Hebrides, two names ; Skye, Inner Hebrides, two names ; Argyllshire, one name).

4. So far as I have been able to ascertain, all these names have been ignored by later workers. For example, the five names for British birds were ignored by the British Ornithologists' Union in its *Checklist of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland* published in 1952, although at the time the Union was aware of the existence of Horniman's pamphlet. Similarly in his work *The Birds of the Belgian Congo* Chapin has ignored the four names given to Congo birds.

5. I am entirely in favour of the rejection of the new names included in this pamphlet but I consider that, in order to prevent any subsequent argument on this subject, this should be done not by leaving these names out of account but by obtaining a definite Ruling from the Commission rejecting this pamphlet for nomenclatorial purposes. There are two means by which this result could be secured. First, the Commission, if it so thought fit, could give a Ruling that this pamphlet was not duly "published" within the meaning of the *Règles*. Second, without entering into this question, it might suppress this pamphlet for nomenclatorial purposes under its Plenary Powers. Although I think it virtually certain that this pamphlet was never "published" and therefore that the names in it possess no status of availability, I do not feel that this has been definitely established, despite the efforts which have been made to obtain information on this subject. I conclude therefore that the best course is that the Commission should be asked to use its Plenary Powers to suppress this pamphlet for nomenclatorial purposes, having regard to the fact (1) that it is highly probable that it was never duly "published", (2) that it is so excessively rare that, if it were to be accepted, very few ornithologists would ever be able to see it, (3) that the new names in this pamphlet have been consistently ignored by later authors, and (4) that unnecessary name-changing would result if this pamphlet were to be accepted as from January 1940, the date printed on it.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked :—

- (1) to use its Plenary Powers to suppress for nomenclatorial purposes the 4-page pamphlet by H. B. Horniman entitled *Preliminary Descriptions of some new Birds* and bearing the date "January 1940" ;
- (2) to place the title of the pamphlet specified in (1) above, as there proposed to be suppressed under the Plenary Powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Works in Zoological Nomenclature* ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned specific names included in the above pamphlet on the pages severally specified below on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology* as being names possessing no status either under the Law of Priority or under the Law of Homonymy :—
 - (a) *kasai* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Halcyon leucocephala kasai* (: 1) ;

- (b) *whitei* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Prodotiscus whitei* (: 1);
- (c) *mwiniilunga* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Cossypha heuglini mwiniilunga* (: 2);
- (d) *hebridium* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Erithacus rubecula hebridium* (: 2);
- (e) *limes* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Pycnonotus tricolor limes* (: 2);
- (f) *hebridensis* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Alauda arvensis hebridensis* (: 2);
- (g) *callewaerti* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Tchagra senegala callewaerti* (: 3);
- (h) *skyensis* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Troglodytes troglodytes skyensis* (: 3);
- (i) *scotica* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Certhia familiaris scotica* (: 3);
- (j) *hebridium* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Emberiza calandra hebridium* (: 3);
- (k) *intensus* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Serinus mozambicus intensus* (: 4);
- (l) *pygmaea* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Anthoscopus pygmaea* (: 4);
- (m) *anonymus* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Pogoniulus chrysoconus anonymus* (: 4);
- (n) *longipenne* Horniman, 1940, as printed in the combination *Tricholaema melanocephalum longipenne* (: 4).